



February 2021



“When I think of your ways, I turn my feet to your promises” (Psalm 119:59)

The month of January is often a time of reflection. Some make New Year's Resolutions. Others consider their past year and think about goals for the New Year. In the church, we usually have our Annual Meeting in the month of January.

I think that the Annual Meeting is a joyful time to celebrate both the ministry of the congregation in the past year and the ministry that God is calling the congregation to do in the New Year. It is an opportunity to think of God's ways and turn our feet toward God's promises. We held our annual meeting by Zoom on Jan. 31. It was likely different from anything any of us might have imagined a year ago. But, it was a time to celebrate all that we have accomplished for Christ in the past year and all that God is calling us to do this year. The slides from that meeting, as well as the written annual report and Narrative Budget are available for anyone who wishes to review them.

As we look toward the month of February, I invite us all to give some time for reflecting on our past year and the year to come. We have much to celebrate as we consider the ways this congregation has navigated difficult times and continued to love and serve our God in joyful, creative, and profound ways. Consider the different ways we have worshipped this past year: Via livestream, in person with precautions, outside with a camel, donkeys, and sheep, snow and sleet! We also have much to talk about as we share the Good News of God and invite others to join in worship and service through this community.

I invite all of us to consider how we can join together in worship and service in the coming months. Can you help usher during a socially distanced worship service? Or act as liturgist? Would you be willing to give time to join us in a Zoom meeting to brainstorm ways we can reach out with Christ's love in this community and the world? Would you like to study the Sermon on the Mount and join us weekly in our Zoom Bible study? Can you commit to praying on a weekly basis for this congregation and those known to us who are in need of God's care? Can you help us consider other ways we can all be involved and turn our feet to those holy promises of God? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please contact me! Or, consider what other questions we can ask in these times and share your thoughts.

I am very thankful for all that God has done in and through this congregation and the ways God is calling us to serve for the coming year. There is much to celebrate and much to do! What are you thankful for as you reflect on the past year? What would you like to see happen in the next few months that will glorify our God? How would you like to be involved? How can you invite others to come and see and worship and serve? The Annual Meeting is the beginning of a conversation. I invite all of us to join in as we think of God's ways and turn our feet to God's promises.

Pastor Leigh

Reach Out and Touch Someone!

It may be funny to think of this old advertising slogan, particularly in times when we are distancing. But it is a wonderful reminder of our call as Christians. While we are not reaching out and literally touching someone, more than ever, it is essential that we reach out with God's love. The month of February is often associated with love. So let us all consider how we can reach out and touch others with God's love. Make a February resolution to reach out (whether by call, text, zoom, Facebook or note) to invite at least two people to get to know God's love in and through this congregation. You can invite them to worship, either in person or online, or invite them to be a part of our Wednesday Bible study, or our Sunday youth, or Sunday morning children's activities. Share a Family Lenten Activity Box or invite someone to Ash Wednesday worship. This February, reach out and touch someone with God's love! ❤️

Lenten Zoom Bible Study - Explore the most popular sermon ever delivered!

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? In ***Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven***, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. Join us on Wednesday evenings, beginning **February 24, at 7:00 PM for a zoom 6-week study of the Sermon on the Mount**. Using Scripture and a video, we will engage in conversation about these sayings and how they can shape us today. Study guides may be purchased for more in depth reflection. If you need assistance purchasing a study guide, contact Pastor Leigh.

Musical Musings

- We are beginning to make plans for this year's Music and Worship Conference at Montreat. Week I begins June 20 and Week II begins June 27.

Let Pam know if you are interested in going or if you want more information.

- During Lent, Music Live Constant Contact will resume. I'll be playing and discussing hymns and organ music of that season. I have several selections in mind but would love to hear your suggestions. Please let me know if you have a favorite Lenten hymn or organ piece you would like to know more about.

- Even though we cannot sing during this time---we can still make music!! You all heard the beautiful music of our handbells during Advent and Christmas. Handbells are a completely safe and a wonderful way to make music together. Rehearsal times are arranged according to the schedule of the ringers. My hope is we could have several groups. Please let me know if you are interested in ringing. You don't need to have any previous experience--- Music reading is NOT a requisite. The only requisite is a desire to serve God and your Church through music!! OH-----and the desire to have fun being together!!!



From the Session

The Session met on January 19, 2021 for its regular Stated Meeting. The following are the highlights from that meeting:

1. Mark Bridges presented the 2021 Budget which was approved.
2. An Endowment Committee Report was received and Committee member appointments were approved.
3. Beth Weathersby reported that Preschool registration begins in February.
4. Mary Gilreath reported that meals are being delivered to quarantined members.
5. Beth Gaines reported that the Ash Wednesday Service is tentatively scheduled for 2/17/2021 at 6:30 PM and the Maundy Thursday service for 4/1/2021 at 6:30 PM.
6. The Session approved a modification to our church flower policy allowing tasteful, live-appearing artificial flowers.
7. Phil Bridges provided an update on the FPC roof claim and the damage estimate from the Public Adjuster hired to negotiate our claim with our insurance carrier.
8. Paul Green reported a \$91,263.02 budget surplus for the 2020 year just ended.
9. Pastor Leigh's Installation Service has been tentatively scheduled for 3/21/2021 at 3:00 PM.



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 6:30 PM, with Covid precautions. Nursery provided.

Imposition of Ashes will be offered on hands or on a card that may be carried with you throughout the holy season of Lent.



FPC's Book Club will meet on **February 25th at 10:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. The selected book is *Educated* by Tara Westover.

All are welcome!



Family Lenten Activity Boxes **Pickup on Sunday Feb. 7 or 14 or schedule a delivery for your family**

We are putting together boxes, with materials from *Illustrated Ministry*, for our families with children and youth for the season of Lent. "By exploring Gospel passages about treasures and matters of the heart, families will reflect on what kind of treasure matters to us, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives." Starting with Ash Wednesday, *An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on the Heart* includes weekly devotions, activities, and coloring pages for families to use during Lent. Email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to reserve your Family Lenten Box for pickup or delivery.



MONTREAT[®]

CONFERENCE CENTER

Montreat Youth Conference Registration is NOW open!

High School Montreat - June 13-19 - cost is estimated to be \$400, but it might slightly increase based on transportation and food costs.

[Click here HS Montreat 2021 Information](#)

Middle School Montreat - July 13-17, Maryville College, TN. Total cost is \$415.

[Click here MSC Montreat 2021 Information](#)

\$100 Deposits are due by February 14, and the final payment is due by May 16.

Email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to secure your spot today!

Scholarships are available. Please reach out to Andrea or Pastor Leigh if a scholarship is needed.

Adult Chaperones are needed as well. Let Andrea know if you would like to join us on one of our trips to Montreat.

If you have any questions, [contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org](mailto:andrea@cartersvillepres.org)



- **Sunday School** will tentatively resume when we return to in-person worship. Please read your emails from the church for updated information.

- **Are you signed up for youth and children's email and texts?**

Most of our youth communication comes from our Constant Contact Weekly Youth Emails & Flocknote Texting Service. If you are not on our Youth Group Email distribution lists, email andrea@cartersvillepres.org



Things of Interest

- We are offering a new Kindergarten Class starting August 2021.
- The class will hold a maximum of 10 students and a minimum of 7. The day will begin at 8:00 and end at noon.
- Our teacher will be a newly retired teacher from Cartersville Primary.
- Currently, our numbers are:
4 students coming 2 days per week
18 students coming 3 days per week
49 students coming 5 days per week

Please call the Pre-School Office if you have any questions. Either Lindsay or Beth will be present Monday-Friday from 8:00 ~ 12:00.



Important Dates

Valentine's Parties

Friday, February 12

Registration for August 2021

February 1 and Feb 8

Winter Break

Monday and Tuesday
February 15 and 16



2021-2022 Registration Begins in February

Registration dates for FPC members will be open the **first week** in February. The **second week** will open for parents with children currently in attendance. Lastly, we will open pre-school registration to the public on **February 22**.

Reminder

We will follow Cartersville City Schools schedule for snow days.

However, sometimes, in the event of closings, the Pre-School may close earlier or open later to avoid traffic conflicts with the schools.

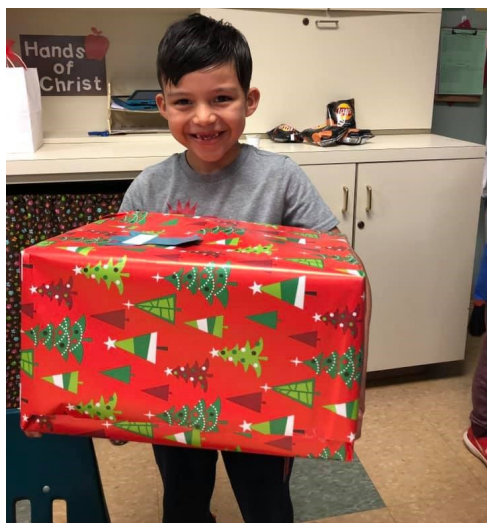
Hands of Christ

After School Program



ANGELS AMONG US

FPC is so blessed to have such a loving and generous congregation. This year 157 gifts were distributed at the Hands of Christ classroom Christmas parties. All of YOU are the real angels on earth for opening your hearts and sharing your love with these children. Thanks to you the children who are a part of this ministry know the true spirit and joy of Christmas. Most importantly, they have experienced God's gift to the world, and will carry His love with them always.



Roman, the library therapy dog, dropped by to wish us a Merry Christmas! He visited each classroom to spread love and joy!



Winter Break
February 15-16

February Birthdays

1	John Morrison	27	Ethan Gregory
2	Kyle Russell	28	Sandy Atwell
5	Dalton Jenkins	28	Beth Gaines
7	George Campbell	28	Erin Sims
7	Jackson Wilson	28	Conner Paul
8	Beth Weathersby		
11	Sally Conlin		
12	Gerry Thrasher		
13	Kay Boulter		
14	Dennis Collier		
14	Matt Bridges		
15	Weston Bradley		
15	Wyatt Bradley		
18	Jennifer Tasker		
19	Margaret Gaines		
21	Susan Ginn		
21	Marshall Pressley		
23	Kathe Keck		
23	Jessi Bailey		
24	Chris Shields		
24	Peter Morrison		



In February We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Angie Hood, Amy Prather (ASP), Carol Ries (ASP), Mary Barragan (Preschool), Jennifer Belisle (Preschool)

Officers: Janet Martin (Session), Jean Robinson (Diaconate)

Ministries: Administrative Ministry

Families: February 1-7: Richard and Guill Bailey, Alice Baker, Lane and Tracey Baker (Alexandria), Mike and Cynthia Ball, Elise Bares (Anderson, Johnathan, Edward)

February 8-14: Brad and Susan Barrett, James and Anne Marie Benton (Jimmy, David), Peyton Boulter, Gary and Kay Boulter, Andy and Kim Bowen (Brooke)

February 15-21: Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen (Thomas, Katherine), Alan and Carolyn Bowen, Lin and Lori Bradley (Will, Weston, Wyatt), Ben Bridges (Ross), Hannah Bridges

February 22-28: Mark and Sandy Bridges, Phil and Donna Bridges, Matt Bridges (Ella), Bill and Becky Broome (Rebecca, Will), Jerry Brownlow (Skylar, Call)

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Beth Weathersby, preschool co-director

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Lindsay Scoggins, preschool co-director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

February Calendar

February 1

Preschool Registration for Church members

February 2

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

February 3

7:00pm - Epiphany Zoom Online Bible Study

February 8

Preschool Registration for Preschool families

6:00pm - Worship Committee

February 9

7:30pm - Faith Development Meeting

February 15

Winter Break for Preschool & HOC Afterschool

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

February 16

Winter Break for Preschool & HOC Afterschool

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Session Meeting

February 17

6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Service

February 22

Preschool Registration open to the public

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

February 24

7:00pm - Sermon on the Mount Zoom Study

February 25

10:30am - Book Club Meeting

Winter Break

The Preschool and Hands of Christ ASP
will be closed February 15–16.

